

**City of New Castle Delaware
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson - present
Councilperson Vannucci - present
Council President Ratchford - present
Councilperson Petty - present
Councilperson Di Mondì - present

Also present:

William Barthel, City Administrator
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Daniel Tjaden, Police Chief
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor

Council President Ratchford welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year, saying 2016 would be a great year for the City of New Castle.

Approval of Minutes by Date: 12/8/15 Public Hearing, 12/8/15 Regular Council Meeting, 12/16/15 Public Hearing, 12/18/2015 Special Meeting and **Approval to Accept Staff Reports** as submitted.

Councilperson Megginson motioned and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the Minutes and Staff Reports without changes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

City Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts as of December 31, 2015. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$3,776,489.38.

Councilperson Petty motioned and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Report from the City Administrator & Staff:

City Administrator Barthel:

- Status of the Pier, Mr. Barthel stated that the City did have a bid opening in December; unfortunately there was only one response, which came in at 3,075,000. There were four contractors that had attended a pre-bid meeting, and Atlantic Sub-Sea Inc. was the bidder. Mr. Barthel stated that he did talk to Duffield to see why they thought we only received one bid. Duffield followed up with some of the companies that had attended, Their main concerns were that they had work they were already involved with, weather, and the stop date of March 1st for driving the pilings due to wildlife restrictions.

The City will rebid the project, looking at the middle of February to put out the bid. We hope to have the bids back by the end of March. This will give contractors more times to plan. More companies have indicated that they would be interested in bidding with the new timeframe.

In speaking with Atlantic Sub-Sea Inc. their bid was based on working within the original timeframe. Mr. Barthel said they have contacted DEMA and requested an extension of the Pier funds, approximately \$144,000. provided we complete the project by November 2016. The initial response from DEMA was that this was a reasonable request, and the City should keep DEMA apprised of the situation.

- Building Department: While Building Official Jeff Bergstrom is on vacation the Public Services functions will be moved to the Administration Building at 220 Delaware Street. This is until the Building Inspector returns, but the City is looking at doing this on a full time basis. By having more services in one location the hope is that we can better serve the public by employees that can help if one person is out, or busy. The plan is to cross train employees so they will have a working knowledge of each other's duties. This would be more efficient, and more productive, with less down time, and the City would not have to hire more people.
- Board Marsh Tide Gate: There was a situation where one of the tide gates failed, it cracked and then later it had failed altogether. With the help of MSC City workers were able to temporarily replace the flap gate with steel plate with gives a temporary fix on the gate. The City is working with Fish and Wildlife, and the Conservation District to determine what needs to be done, and what the cost will be. With the cost of the Flap Gate at approximately \$8,000.00 and when our personnel doing the work, the cost should be under \$10,000.
- Tax Collection /Tax Amnesty Recap: Going back to 10/1/15 the total tax owed was \$438,037.52 of that 288 accounts were delinquent. On 10/22/15 247 delinquent notices were mailed out. As of 11/1/16 the amount was down to \$400,670.51 and 248 accounts. As of 12/1/15 the amount was down to \$381,299.75 and 207 accounts. As of 1/11/16 the amount was down to \$373,884.38 and 188 accounts, bringing the amount collected to \$65,000, \$19,145 of which was collected from commercial properties and payment arrangements were made with 2 commercial properties worth \$53,000. The year to date budget is showing property tax is at 101% of the projected revenue. Tax penalties are at 86%, and delinquent payments is at 89%, we are substantially ahead for the in our efforts to collect taxes.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked why was the person working at the Trolley Barn moved if it was known that the Building Official was going to be away for a month.

Mr. Barthel said this item was discussed with City Council in Executive Session, and Council was aware that the move was going to take place. The new employee was moved from the Trolley Barn was moved to the City Administration building to assist if there were questions regarding Building Department issues.

Councilperson Di Mondì asked for clarification on the creation of the Administrative Assistant position, with a cost to the City with benefits of \$85,000.

Mr. Barthel deferred to the Council President noting that this had been discussed in Executive Session.

Council President Ratchford stated that Council did not discuss salaries or employee transfers within the Public Meetings, personnel matters are confidential.

Councilperson Di Mondì stated that it is not an Executive Session matter, a new position was created, and he is asking how it was created.

Council President Ratchford stated that the matter was discussed in Executive Session; the City Administrator has the ability to manage the employees that report to him under the framework provided by Council. There is a strict delineation between responsibilities of Council and personnel management. Council President asked City Solicitor, Dan Losco to comment.

Mr. Losco stated that the City's policy regarding performance issues is that the employee has the right to privacy. Any discussion of performance should be handled in executive session.

There was a discussion regarding the number and duties of administrative employees.

President Ratchford stated that one of the challenges faced by the City is that there are multiple locations and to provide good customer service you have to train employees. The City has 3 locations and the City needs to cross train the staff to cover other locations as needed.

Mr. Barthel added that this had been discussed several times in executive session.

Police Chief Tjaden:

- Assisted Wilmington Police with execution of a warrant in Washington Park. The warrant was for armed robbery in the first degree.
- Received information that someone in the City was selling stolen firearms. The NC Police worked with Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. Suspect was put under surveillance he was apprehended, and firearms and cash were seized. The suspect was a convicted felon.
- The Blue Christmas supplied dinner and gifts to 7 families
- The Christmas party at Good Will was a big hit.

President Ratchford thanked the New Castle City Police for their hard work all year. We are fortunate to have this Police force in the City.

Council Communications:

Councilperson Vannucci thanked Chief Tjaden for the work they did on the Christmas party with Good Will, and the Blue Christmas project. He also thanked St. Anthony's and St. Gabe's for donating money for the Blue Christmas. The Christmas Party was a big hit, and there were lots of happy kids there. The Blue Christmas project had seven families that received gifts donated from the community.

Councilperson Vannucci said the Police, Council members and Senator Poore went out on Christmas Eve and delivered the gifts. He said it is a great feeling to see a family get a Christmas that they would not have had.

Mr. Barthel introduced Clifford Reaume, President of the City's local AFSCME Union.

Mr. Clifford Reaume addressed the meeting. Mr. Reaume said he had been asked to answer questions about whether the City and the Local Union had negotiated the current contract in good faith. Mr. Reaume stated that as in all negotiations both sides start out on either end and meet in the middle. He stated that in addition to the pay increases the Union and City has agreed to some wording changes in the contract that will help the employees in the long run.

Mr. Reaume said the wording change in the step increase process will help the laborers attain step increases, which will put them at a higher paygrade, in effect giving them a raise. He said that the benefits also remained stable, and that was another consideration. In the long term he said he felt we negotiated a very good contract, and the City and the Union both negotiated the current contract in good faith.

There was a discussion regarding the Union contract.

President Ratchford asked the City Solicitor to comment regarding Union negotiations.

Mr. Losco stated that the Union is the appointed representative to bargain on behalf of the employees. The City cannot unilaterally go to a group of employees and offer them a sweeter deal, that is a violation of federal law. The City would have to go through the Union to negotiate any change in wages or benefits.

There was a discussion regarding the proposal to raise the Laborers hourly rate.

Mr. Reaume stated that an hourly rate increase would be great for everyone, but that it has to be weighed against any increased cost of benefits.

President Ratchford thanked Mr. Reaume for talking with Council, and expressed that Council appreciates everything that the Public Works laborers do for the City.

Council Communications

Business from the Mayor

Business from the Council President: President Ratchford reported that the City submitted a resiliency grant application to the State of Delaware, for a partnership arrangement where the State would work with the City on things such as emergency preparedness, how to address sea-level rise and flooding. President Ratchford stated that the City received approval from Fish and Wildlife to extend the Broad Dyke onto a woodland trail that will go from the end of the Broad Dyke toward the Glebe cemetery and join the cul-de-sac at the end of Glebe Lane. This will just be a woodland trail.

Business from the Floor (concerning agenda items only):

President Ratchford read three letters into the record concerning Ordinance 505; an Ordinance concerning the Historic Area Commission; attached.

Dorsey Fiske
East Second Street

Ms. Fiske said she thinks it is very important for the architect to have a vote. This person has a great deal of knowledge and is an objective observer. If the architect does not have a vote then you would need a 5th member of HAC, and it is not easy to get people to volunteer for these committees.

Ms. Fiske said she feels it important for the members to visit the sites, she said that way the members get a full picture of the impact the changes will have on the property and the surrounding properties. She stated that FOIA had been seen as a problem, having a quorum of members together when not in a public meetings, but in the past members would go on their own or in pairs.

Old Business

1. Second Reading and Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance 505 to amend Section 230-45 Historic review certificate required in historic districts to update compliance requirements and Sections 230-49 through 230-52 Historic Area Commission to revise Commission structure, proceedings and powers & duties based on recommendations of the Historic Area Review Commission (HARC) and other input.

President Ratchford explained that Ordinance 505 is setting up a new process; it's not just the ordinance. The City has been working on this process for approximately a year and there have been at least five public meetings on these topics. Stating she feels there has been time to get residents' concerns addressed and an opportunity for the public to express their opinions. This Ordinance sets up the structure for other things to happen. Once the Ordinance passed that will allow Council to create guidelines. These guidelines were developed by the Historic Area Review Committee. These guidelines have substantial changes in the operations of the Historic Area Commission. The HAC processes are also going to change; the architect is developing a new application. They are streamlining the process while offering plenty of opportunity to review applications. Currently everything in the historic district goes before HAC. If this Ordinance and the guidelines pass then HAC will have fewer things to review, many things can be handled with administrative review. This would mean there are fewer locations that the Commission would need to visit. There have been discussions regarding procedures for members visiting sites; it is encouraged for the members to visit the locations.

Another area that is being looked at to improve efficiency is to make sure there is enough time to review the applications. In the past when everything had to go before HAC many things came in at the last minute, leaving little time to review and visit the sites. The guidelines build in enough time for the members to review the applications.

Around the country the roll of the architect goes both ways, some are voting, and some are not, frequently they are not paid. In the case of the City in the proposed ordinance, they are a member, they do not vote, but they express their opinion and provide recommendations and expertise. The city is investing in having a paid consultant a historical architecture degree and experience in the field. That is a huge benefit for the citizens.

President Ratchford stated that the Ordinance was read at the December 8, 2015 regular meeting was posted on the City web site as the second reading and a Public Hearing was held.

President Ratchford highlighted several changes in the Ordinance since the last reading.

Historic compliance. Prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any project subject to the requirements of an historic review certificate, a completed project shall be reviewed and inspected by the ~~Code~~ Building Official. Said review and inspection shall be made to ensure compliance with all conditions of the original historic review certificate. -Code official was changed to building official, as they are the ones would be doing the inspection.

No member of the Historic Area Commission may serve more than two consecutive terms; provided, however, that no term limitation shall apply to the non-voting architect member. -wording added - provided, however, that no term limitation shall apply to the non-voting architect member.

Board of Adjustment Appellate Jurisdiction. The Board of Adjustment shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals by any person aggrieved or by any officer or ~~bureau~~ agent of the governing body of the City affected by any decision of the Commission or the Building Official under this Article VII. -Under Board of Adjustment, replace bureau with agent.

Appeals. Appeals from any decision made under Article VII of this chapter may be made within twenty (20) days of such decision by any person aggrieved or by any officer or agent of the City to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with 230-55. For the purposes of this subsection E,- clerical correction

President Ratchford opened the floor to Council comments.

Councilperson Di Mondì stated he feels that City Council should have the right to overturn a HAC decision before it goes to the Board of Adjustment so the residents don't have to pay \$600.00. Why can't they come to City Council for an independent ruling? Mr. DiMondì stated that Council is losing control over too many areas; Council should not be giving up its authority. If a person wants to appeal a HAC decision they have to pay \$600.00 to go before the Board of Adjustment.

Council President Ratchford asked Mr. Losco to address Councilperson DiMondì's question.

Mr. Losco stated that the Historic Area Appeals process has not changed, it has always been the case that anyone appealing a decision would go to the Board of Adjustment, and Council has not given up any authority in this matter. If Council did want to hear these appeals then they would need a written legal decision for each appeal, there has to be a legal decision that is appealable to the Appellate Court. It would be the prerogative of City Council to decide if they want to make appellate decisions.

Council President Ratchford stated the Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judiciary council. TO make a HAC decision there is lot or research that would need to be done. Council's role should be approving the processes, and providing training.

Councilperson Petty agreed that the reason we have the different Commissions and Committees is to

The Motion to approve Ordinance 505 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Petty. **Ordinance 505 passed with 4 yeas and 1 opposed.**

Second Reading and Motion, Discussion and Vote on Ordinance 506; An Ordinance to Amend Section 140-11 of the Code of the City of New Castle (The “Code”) Entitled “Excessive Consumption of Inspections” and Section 140-12 of the Code Entitled “Fees For Excessive Consumption of Inspections; Collection.”

President Ratchford stated that the Ordinance was read at the last regular meeting was posted on the City web site as the second reading and a Public Hearing was held.

The Motion to approve Ordinance 506 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Vannucci. **Ordinance 506 passed unanimously.**

New Business

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution No. 2016-01; for the placement request of Bailey’s Dawgs as a vendor operating within the City limits.

Bailey’s Dawgs have requested the same location as last year. They will use the same equipment with the addition of an 8X8 canopy for sun protection.

They are aware that they may have to move due to pier construction. They have acknowledged the possibility.

The Motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-01 was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded by Councilperson Vannucci.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2016-01 passed unanimously.

Establishment of a Committee to Develop a Strategic Plan and Provide Recommendations to the City on Destination Marketing and Tourism--Council Discussion and Public Input

Council President Ratchford introduced a discussion on establishing a committee to develop a strategic plan to provide recommendations to the City on destination marketing and tourism. It would be a short term committee to what needs to be done in the City. We would welcome anyone who wants to do things for the City, whatever the organization. That is the role of the City to support the organizations.

Councilperson Megginson asked why the Resolution did not pass for the groups that wanted to pass a 501C3, should they try to get their 501C3, and be affiliated with the City.

President Ratchford stated that the Resolution that did not pass was for the City to set up a 501C3.

Councilperson Megginson said that it was the City asking them to set up the 501C3. The City would not have had responsibility. That group wanted to know if they formed, that the City would accept their donations.

President Ratchford stated that she would support anyone who wanted to do things for the City. If a formed group that has a mission, and a board comes before the City and wants support the City should consider that support, as the City supports many other non-profits.

Councilperson Vannucci stated that the City needs all the help it can get, and the Council should not turn any group away.

President Ratchford agreed that there needs to be an umbrella group where the many groups of the City can come together, and she would welcome any group that wanted to work and support the City.

Mr. Losco stated that nothing stopping anyone from setting up a 501c3 if they have the proper purpose and the IRS certification.

Councilperson Vannucci said that the refinery helps Delaware City. He would like to see them come to New Castle and help us.

President Ratchford stated that she would welcome any group that wanted to ask the City for endorsement of their stated mission, she would welcome working with groups that want to help the City.

This committee would come together discuss ideas, such as Russ Smith did with the Visitor Experience presentation, there have been suggestions from various places. The thought is to get a group together to look at the ideas we have and to come up with additional ideas and make a list of what the City needs to do.

This group would consolidate ideas, such as signage, visitor contact, connections, destination marketing, etc. The group would be made up of all the groups.

Councilperson Vannucci said he has no problem with the committee. The more people that want to help the better.

Comments from the floor:

Gene Dempsey, President of visitor Center

Mr. Dempsey said anyone who wants to come and try to get people who we also need money to get the we are still thriving. Many people work to grow the City. We need to be positive people who donate their time to the City.

Dorsey Fiske
26 East 3rdStreet

Ms. Fiske said she feels the economy is improving, and hopefully we will get some investment in the Town. Ms. Fiske also reminded Council that Alice Jarvis had prepared a marketing plan. This is a plan proposes sensible methods to bring marketing into the town. Balances interest of residents and businesses, so both aspects of the Town are served. Ms. Fiske suggested that Council review the plan again.

President Ratchford

Bill Boyle

209 East Second Street

Mr. Boyle asked what the time frame is for this committee. President Ratchford answered that it would be a short term committee. Mr. Boyle asked if any work had been done on setting up the committee or appointing members. President Ratchford said no work had been done; it is being introduced to get ideas from Council and the audience. Mr. Boyle asked what help the committee could expect from the City. President Ratchford said as a committee they would get the same administrative support offered to other committees. Mr. Boyle asked if the committee would get legal support in establishing a 501C3. President Ratchford stated that the concept was not to design a 501C3. Mr. Boyle said that the committee that wants to establish the 501C3 has the same goals as the committee she was suggesting. President Ratchford said if any group wants to establish a 501C3 and come to the City for support they would be welcome. She does not think the City should be in the business of establishing 501C3's, the group should be established before coming to the City.

Councilperson DiMondi asked what the use of forming committees is; when something needs to get done Council should make a decision instead of forming committees. Council should take responsibility for doing something instead of forming committees.

Dave Baldini

419 South Street

Mr. Baldini said we have many people who want to help, there are many groups in the City and a lot of the volunteers are in multiple groups. This committee should a group off all the committees. The heads of the groups in town should meet and get their missions and agendas coordinated. With all the different groups there is a lot of duplicated effort. These groups are all going after the same limited resources. If this group is working on increasing tourism and bringing people into town you need to address infrastructure issues.

As proposed, we do need a list of what needs to be done. With an increasing number of events in town, we need to look at what else is in town. We have a limited number of storefronts; there is prime commercial real estate that could be used for any number of things. Mr. Baldini said we need to consider the City's future vision and get the different groups working together under a "big tent" to get things done.

President added that is the reason for the committee, to get groups organized and working together, and not duplicating efforts. The groups in town are already doing wonderful things, but it would be nice to know what the possibilities are.

Sally Denton

East Second Street

Ms. Denton stated that she was involved in putting this group together for the City. The money from their projects would have been raised for City to use as it sees fit. She stated that the money from the biking event went to help fund the curb cuts. This organization just wants to make money for the City, other cities do this.

Ms. Denton said there are a lot of organizations in the City, but they are not in sync with each other or City Council. Ms. Denton asked how would the groups be brought together when they are insulting Council members in the paper. We need a group to raise money for the City parks, and handicapped ramps and many other projects. There are many things we need to do so the tourists can get in the City.

President Ratchford stated that these are all good ideas, at this point we are focused on a list of "To Do's." President Ratchford said she welcomes any groups that want to raise money for City projects. Councilperson DiMondi asked why the group would need approval from City Council to do any of these projects.

President Ratchford said the City could endorse a group or activity such as Arasapha putting up wreaths in the City.

Mr. DiMondi asked if the City would endorse a group that they had no control over.

Ms. Denton said Council did not have control over other City groups; this is a group of people who would raise money for City projects.

President Ratchford said that she encourages any group who would like to raise money for a project, but she didn't feel the City should form the 501C3. The City did not form other groups, if that group forms then they can come back to the City to request support.

Marty Wright

123 West 7th Street

Mr. Wright stated that what is lacking in this discussion is the leadership of Council. They are put forth by the public. He said he feels Council should encourage and support with a financial commitment by the City something that will enhance the City. Study/Delay, need to show leadership.

General Comments from the Floor

Binne Beale

26 The Strand

Mr. Beale asked for clarification on the dock project. He asked Council to explain how the funding and bidding process has been handled. He said he understands that 850,000 in State funds were awarded for the dock, which when combined with FEMA funds would be sufficient to construct the dock, and remove the pilings from the prisoners dock without using City funding. Mr. Beale asked several questions

- If the funding received was restricted to the dock project, or could it be used for other projects?
- How was the bidding process handled and why has only one of several bidders responded, and with a bid 4-times the amount suggested by Duffield.

- In view of the shortfall, what is the next step if the other bidders also bid an amount in excess or \$850,000?
- Should the City decide to cancel the dock, are there State funds available in this fiscal year for infrastructure which need to be satisfied now?

Mr. Beale stated that the waterfront remains unprotected, and there are numerous other projects that need to be addressed. Mr. Beale requested an answer for these questions be given.

Mr. Barthel stated that we had talked about possible reasons the City only received one bid, with the higher amount. He added, if the bids don't match the dollar amount we have, the project cannot go forward, at least not currently. Mr. Barthel said that as to \$800,000 provided by the State, that would be up to Council to decide if they wanted to go back to the State and request that it be used for another project. They could also go back to the State and request additional funds to cover any shortfall. The State funds are restricted to the use of the dock; any change would have to be approved by the State.

Mr. Beale asked if the City was given the choice of using the funds for other infrastructure projects when they applied them.

Mr. Barthel answered that no, the funds came specifically earmarked for building the pier.

Councilperson DiMondi asked if the City was going to hold Duffield accountable for giving the original assessment.

Mr. Barthel said he is not convinced that the \$3,000,000 received is indicative of bids that we can get. Once the project is re-bid without the time restraints if we get similar results, depending on how many bids are received, that they would be held accountable for the assessment if they were that far off the mark.

Bob Thomas

Mr. Thomas asked if the project could be bid on the basis of using that money this year to do one part, and then ask for more money next year to do another part.

Mr. Barthel said there were some addendums added to the bid. There may be parts that can be done at different times. The city is under a time constraint for the FEMA money, and the expiration dates of the permits, but the City is talking to the engineering firm to see if there are portions that can be done in phases.

Dorsey Fiske

26 East 3rd Street

Ms. Fiske stated that she did not think it was a good idea to go forward in phases with no guarantee of getting additional funding. She felt there should be a concept for the completion of the project before starting. She also asked what is the deadline for using the funds.

Mr. Barthel stated there was no timeframe for the State funds, and the deadline for the FEMA funds is November 2016, but the City has requested additional time from FEMA. Mr. Barthel said there is a

timeframe for completion in place, but that if anything was done in independently it would need to be functional.

Ms. Fiske asked how much money FEMA was giving to the project, and Mr. Barthel said it was approximately \$146,000. So the available funds would be \$800,000 plus the \$150 less the engineering fees.

Councilperson Vannucci said he thought if the next bids come back at the same level the Dock

Ms. Fiske asked if the project does fall through would Council consider replacing the Prisoners Bridge.

President Ratchford stated that the Prisoners Bridge does not give access to the Kalmar Nyckel. She said it would be premature to speculate at this point. The City's intent at this point is to build the dock.

Bill Emory

Balton

Mr. Emory asked what is the purpose of the pier.

President Ratchford said the purpose of the pier is for the docking of the Kalmar Nyckle, the Kalmar Nyckle staff have been in touch with the City, they plan to be at the City for extended periods. That would be good for economic development and recreation for residents. There is also interest from other ferry's that would like to dock here. New Castle is a river town with way to come in.

Mr. Emory stated that when he ran for Council he was for bringing the pier back to help tourism. Mr. Emory said you would also bring tourism to town if you let private boats use the pier.

Mr. Emory said he thinks the reason the City only got one bid was that the firms knew how much money was available and didn't bid. Mr. Emory said he would support the pier coming back, but said he does not feel it can be done with the current budget.

Mr. Emory said he wanted to voice an objection. He feels there is a gentleman on Council who is a financial advisor, and Council repeatedly side against him when he is making suggestions regarding City finances. Mr. Emory listed examples where he felt this was the case. He said he heard there was a parking issue where people lost parking spaces with the exception of a few people; he feels the workers at the Trolley Barn needed a raise; Mr. Emory said he met with the Council President regarding street paving in the Balton. He feels that the outskirts of town do not get the same attention that in town gets. Mr. Emory said, we pay taxes and we deserve the same respect benefits from the City that the down town residents get.

Mr. Emory noted the Building Inspector was out of town for three weeks, and that no building permits can be issued while he is gone. He said the Building inspector needs an assistant, it is unacceptable not to be able to issue building permits for three weeks.

Mr. Emory said some of the sidewalks in town are dangerous. He is under the impression that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner, and asked what the process is for fixing a sidewalk if the property owner cannot afford to fix their sidewalk.

Mr. Emory asked if he was an employee of the City would he be able to run for City Council.

Mr. Losco said he was not certain; he would have to look it up.

Mr. Emory then asked if he was a Councilperson and wanted to be an employee, could he be able to do that.

Mr. Losco, answered that no, the City had run into that situation with Mr. Barthel, he had to resign as City Council President before becoming an employee of the City.

Mr. Emory asked if there was a requirement that he needed to wait a year before becoming an employee.

Mr. Barthel said that requirement was changed by the previous administration. Mr. Barthel said it was a change in the employee handbook, and a notice was sent out erroneously, it had been changed in the handbook a few years earlier.

Mr. Roger Clark
71 West 4th Street

Mr. Clark asked if there would even be an end to the bidding process for the pier.

President Ratchford said she did not know how to answer Mr. Clarks question but at some point there would be a conclusion.

Councilperson Vannucci said in his opinion after the next round of bids, it would be done.

Mr. Thomas suggested looking at the pilings that are still in the river, a pier could be built on them.

The **Motion to adjourn** was made by Councilperson Megginson, seconded by Councilperson Vannucci and **passed unanimously**. Council adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Council met in Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Burgmuller
City Council Secretary